the aerial portion of the plant, after removing the roots. Yet, it was reported and also seen, that actually tribals take the plants from wild and plant them at convenient sites near to their villages. Similar practice has been adopted by Forest Department.

It is evident that the Mishmees were paying better attention to the crop of *Coptis teeta* before the ban on export, and therefore, a suitable management plan and export policy needs to be drawn to ensure continued interest of the local tribals in protecting and raising this plant.

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ON MONOSTROSITY IN *ARGEMONE MEXICANA* L. (PAPAVERACEAE)

While studying the genus *Argemone* L. the authors have come across interesting specimen of *Argemone mexicana* L. collected by A. S. Bell 178, Banda, U.P. on 15.3.1901. Bell noted on his specimen "only one large plant thus found. None of the natives remember seeing a green Ghamoi*—before, a most curious green flowered specimen of the yellow Ghamoi."

Besides this, the specimen having green coloured flower, appeared to be a teratological variation, enlisted below:

(1) Flowers subtended by 2-foliaceous bracts.
(2) 2-foliaceous bracteoles present, about 2.8 cm long and 1.5 cm broad, ovate-acuminate.
(3) Petal green in colour, 4, spatulate, 3.1 3.3 cm long and 0.9-1.1 cm broad.
(4) Stamen 2.1 cm long, anther 0.5 cm long.
(5) Ovary linear-oblong, 5.3-5.6 cm long, 0.7 cm broad, stigma not sessile, style distinct about 0.5 cm long, stigma capitate.

The specimen is otherwise normal.

Usually teratological forms develop due to fungus or insect attacks. Teratology plays important role in the phylogenetic interpretations as stated by Worsdell (1915). The hereditary alteration of earlier stages in the evolution or padaemorphis is according to Takhtajan (1954) a major evolutionary process. *Argemone mexicana* L. with such a large ovary with prominent style & stigma could not miss the fertilization and hence the petals turn leafy.

It is clear that, this monostrosity in *Argemone mexicana* L. is not hereditarily fixed. But further observation of this type of monostrosities or recapitulation of plant organs may give clue to their phylogeny.

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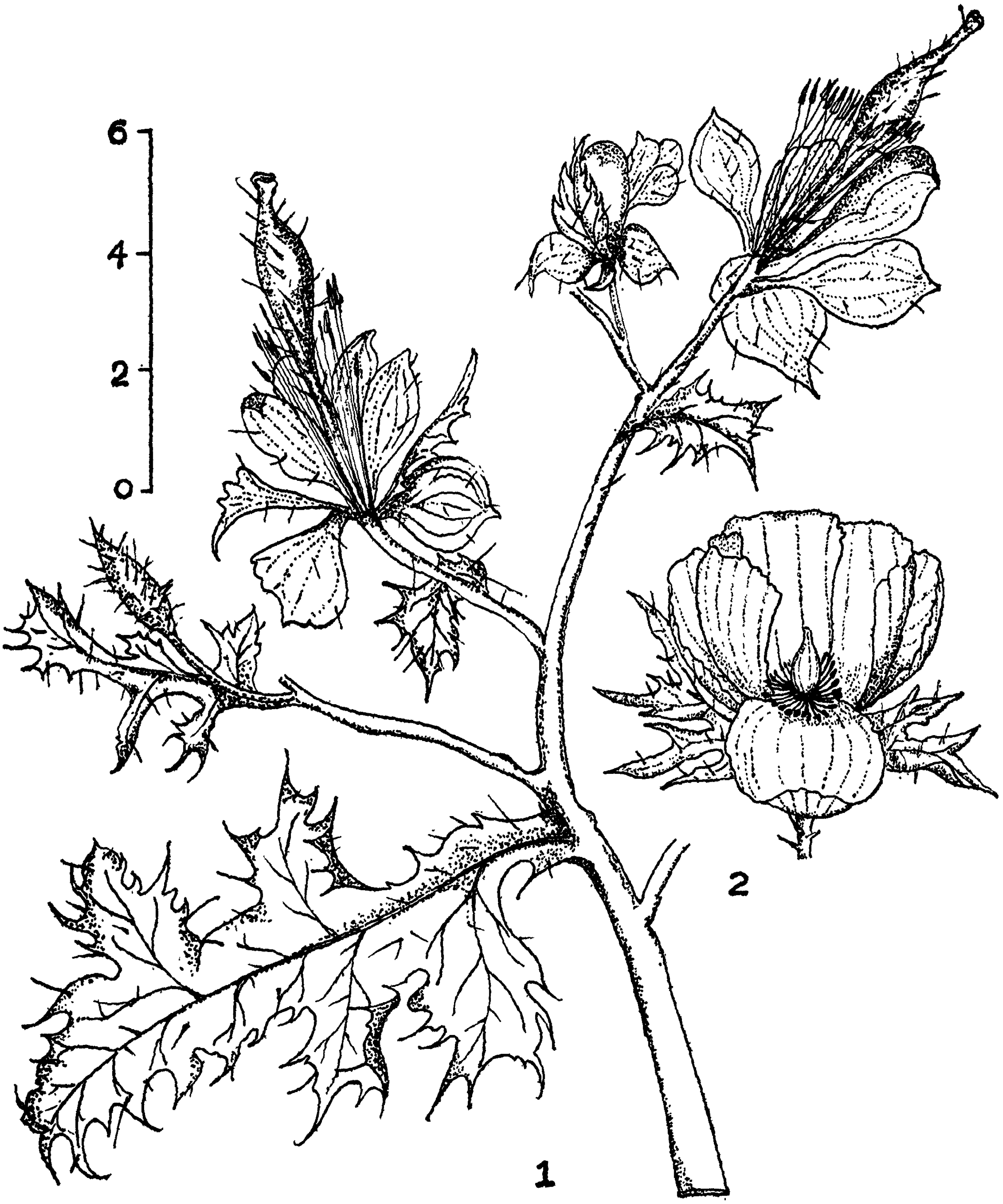
*Varnacular name of *Argemone mexicana* L.



Argemore mexicana L.

Figs. 1-2 : 1. Habit showing teratological variations. 2. Normal flower.